

Message Text

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ORIGIN COA-02

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY RANGOON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: OCLR, TPHY, IN, BM

SUBJECT: TASADAY EXPEDITION R/V THOMAS WASHINGTON

REF: A. SCRIPPS LETTER 2 APRIL

B. DJAKARTA 10708 (NOTAL)

C. RANGOON 962

1. SCRIPPS INSTITUTION OF OCEANOGRAPHY (SIO) HAS ALTERED VESSEL TRACK FOR LEGS 6 & 7. BASICALLY THE PORTION ORIGINALLY PLANNED SOUTH AND WEST OF SUMATRA HAS BEEN OMITTED IN FAVOR OF HEAVIER EFFORT IN BAY OF BENGAL. VESSEL WILL MAKE SECOND CALL AT SINGAPORE ENROUTE BACK TO PACIFIC, IN LIEU OF DJAKARTA. DEPT POUCHING REVISED TRACK WITH ADDITIONAL COPY BULK REF A. DESCRIPTION OF WORK TO BE PERFORMED AND OVERALL SCIENTIFIC OBJECTIVES REMAIN AS REF A. VESSEL ENTERING INDIAN OCEAN VIA STRAITS OF MALACCA, NO UNCLASSIFIED

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STOPS WILL BE MADE BUT UNDERWAY REMOTE SENSING (MAGNETO-

METER, GRAVITY METER, SOME SEISMIC WORK) WILL CONTINUE DURING TRANSIT. R/V WASHINGTON TO PASS THRU TEN DEGREE CHANNEL--NO STOPS AT ANDAMANS EITHER ENTERING OR DEPARTING INDIAN OCEAN--MAKING FIRST ARRIVAL GOI SHELF ON OR ABOUT 23 OCT, EAST OF PT. CALIMERE. ETA GOB SHELF ON OR ABOUT 30 OCT, JUST PRIOR TO RANGOON CALL. VESSEL SCHEDULE NOW:

ARRIVE	PORT	DEPART
	YOKAHAMA	13 SEPT.
7 OCT	SINGAPORE	13 OCT
31 OCT	RANGOON	3 NOV
24 NOV	SINGAPORE	28 NOV

2. ACTION NEW DELHI: INITIATE CLEARANCE REQUEST IN BE-HALF OF SIO FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH GOI CONTINENTAL SHELF PERIOD APPROX 23 OCT THRU 12 NOV TO BE CONDUCTED BY R/V THOMAS WASHINGTON. ALTHOUGH VESSEL NOMINALLY OWNED BY US NAVY, IT IS UNDER OPERATIONAL CONTROL OF AND STAFFED BY CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES OF SCRIPPS AND IS CONSIDERED AS PRIVATE VESSEL. REGRET LATE NOTICE BUT SIO NOT AT FAULT. EVERY FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE SHOWN AS SIO HAS MADE GOOD EFFORT TO INVOLVE LOCAL SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY. CHIEF SCIENTIST OF LEGS 6 & 7, DR. JOSEPH CURRAY, HAS CORRESPONDED WITH DRS. N.K. PANIKKER AND H.N. SIDDIQUEE, BOTH OF NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF OCEANOGRAPHY AT GOA (FORMER IS DIRECTOR AND LATTER IS EXPECTED TO JOIN SHIP). ALSO DR. THAKORE (DIRECTOR OF ADMIN, PHYSICAL RESEARCH LABORATORY) AND DR. RAMASWAMY (CHIEF OF EXPLORATION, MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS, NEW DELHI) HAVE BEEN CONTACTED. DURING 1 TO 3 OCT, WHILE ENROUTE TO JOIN SHIP SINGAPORE, CURRAY WILL VISIT SIDDIQUEE AND DR. C. KARUMAKARAN (DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA--SOUTHERN REGION, HYERABAD).

3. ACTION RANGOON: INITIATE SIMILAR CLEARANCE REQUEST PERIOD 30 OCT THRU 17 NOV; COOPERATE WITH VESSEL AGENT--MAKINNON MACKENZIE & CO--TO FACILITATE RANGOON CALL. CURRAY HAS CONTACTED DR. W. ERNEST HALE OF UNDP RANGOON AND DR. AUNG KHIN, DIRECTOR GENERAL MYANMA OIL CORP. UNCLASSIFIED

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LATTER, WHO IS CONTACT FOR BURMESE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY, WILL BE VISITED DURING CURRAY'S 4 TO 6 OCT RANGOON STOP.

4. NO ACTION DJAKARTA, SINGAPORE, KUALA LUMPUR.

5. SIO HAS STATED WILLINGNESS TO TAKE LOCAL PARTICIPANTS ABOARD. TO DATE THEY EXPECT AT LEAST ONE INDIAN BUT NO

WORD ON BURMESE PARTICIPATION. COPIES OF DATA AND INFO
ON SAMPLES TO BE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST TO COLLABORATING
COUNTRY AGENCIES SHORTLY AFTER CRUISE COMPLETION. SHOULD
LOCAL OBSERVERS BE ABOARD SHIP, THEY WILL BE GIVEN DATA
COPIES AND CUTS OF ALL SAMPLES BEFORE LEAVING. SHOULD
THERE BE ANY CONCERN ON NATURE OF WORK, IT MAY BE POINTED
OUT THAT MAJORITY OF EFFORT IS DIRECTED TOWARD BAY OF
BENGAL BASIN--NOT SHELF. ALSO SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM AS LAID
OUT IS APPROPRIATE ONLY IN DESCRIBING LARGE SCALE GEO-
LOGICAL PROCESSES AND GROSS SUBMARINE FEATURES. RUSH

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